

Week VII

# The Early Civilizations (4000 to 800 BCE)

- The growth of agriculture
- The start of cities
- The refinement of primitive mythologies
- The advent of writing, enduring literary expression. The historical age. Gilgamesh.

# AXIAL AGE (800 to 200 BCE) and The Common Era

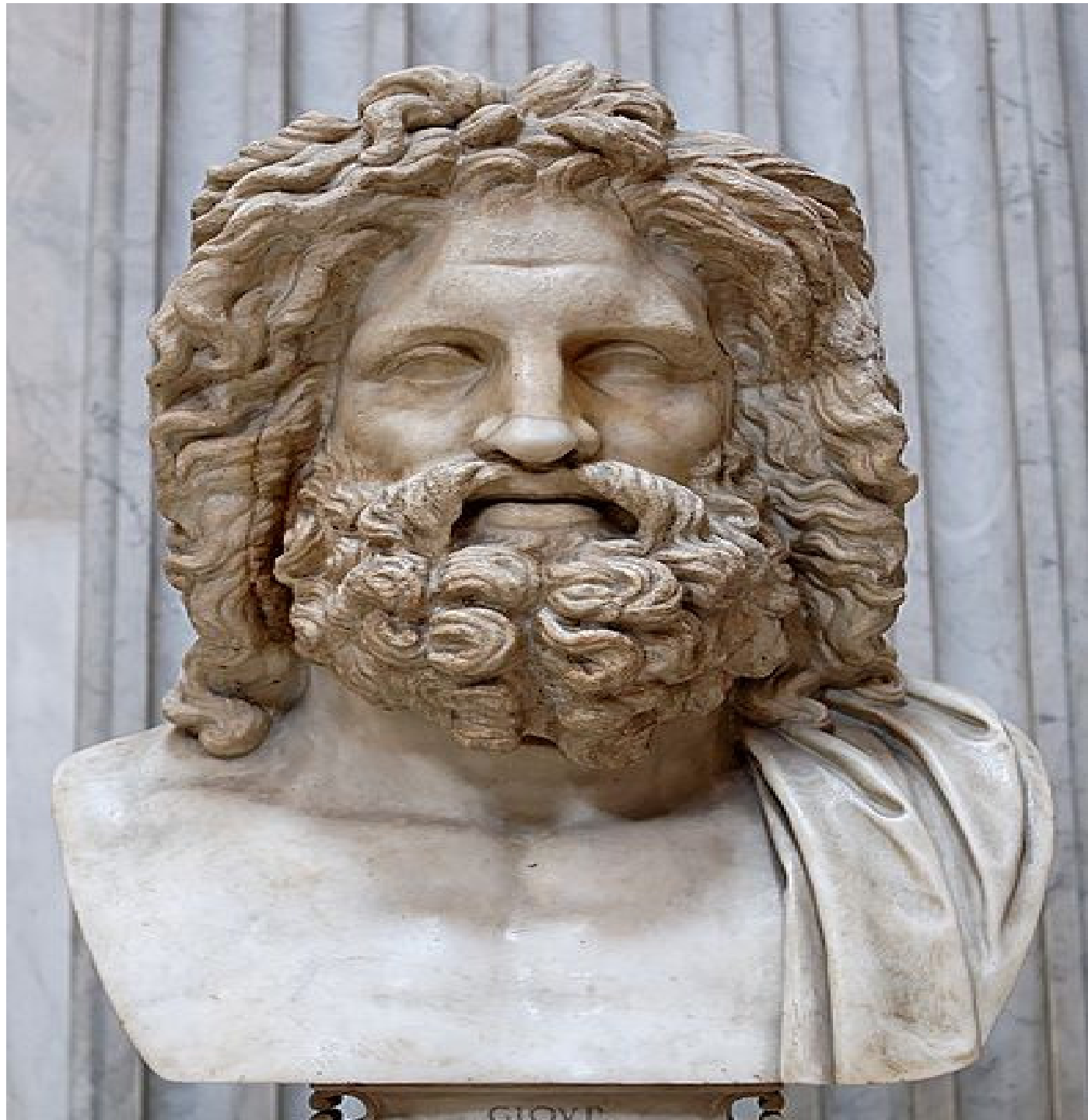
- Evolution of mythology and philosophy
- Beginning of religion as we know it.
- New religions and philosophical systems.
- Monotheism

# From 12 Steps For a Compassionate Life - Armstrong

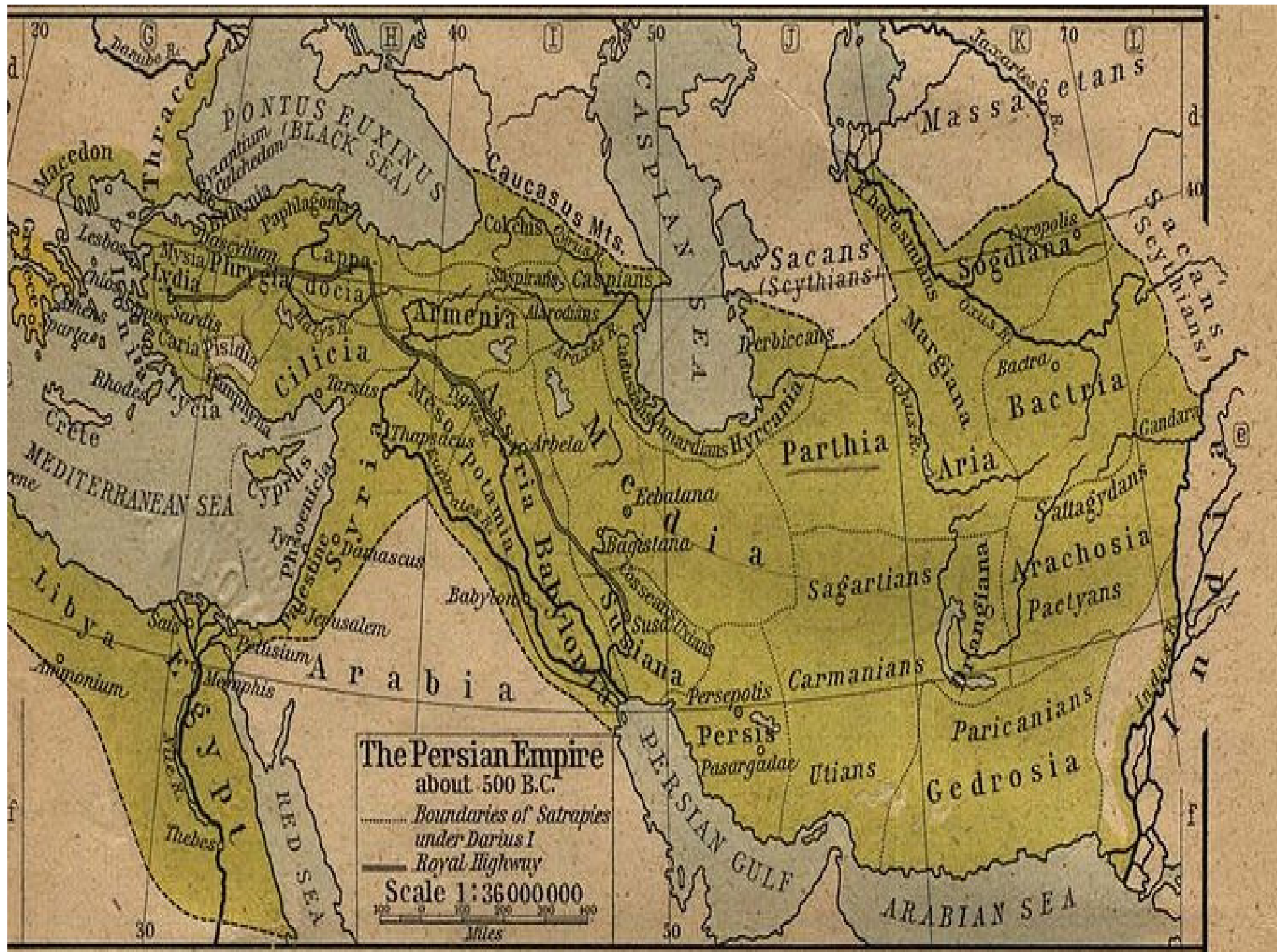
- Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism on the Indian subcontinent; Confucianism and Daoism in China; monotheism in the Middle East; and philosophical rationalism in Greece.
- This was the period of Upanishads, the Buddha, Confucius, Laozi, Isaiah, Ezra, Socrates, and Aeschylus.
- We have never surpassed the insights of the Axial Age.















# Paganism

- What are Pagans?
- We all are pagans depending on definitions.  
Welcome to the club.
- Eligibility requirements and  
ways to join follows.

# Pagans

- Pagans may also be considered a positive attribute.

- Questions to consider:

What were or are the reasons for paganism?

Are pagans any less (or more) moral than other people?



FAMIGLIA INDIANA CARAIBA.



























# Rituals

- Rituals both for religious and other purposes have existed since ancient times and in all cultures.
- They can help satisfy the emotional needs of practitioners, strengthen social bonds, provide social and moral education, demonstrate respect or submission, convey one's affiliation, help obtain social acceptance, indicate approval of some event—or, sometimes, just provide the pleasure of the ritual itself.











# Pagan Practices and Issues

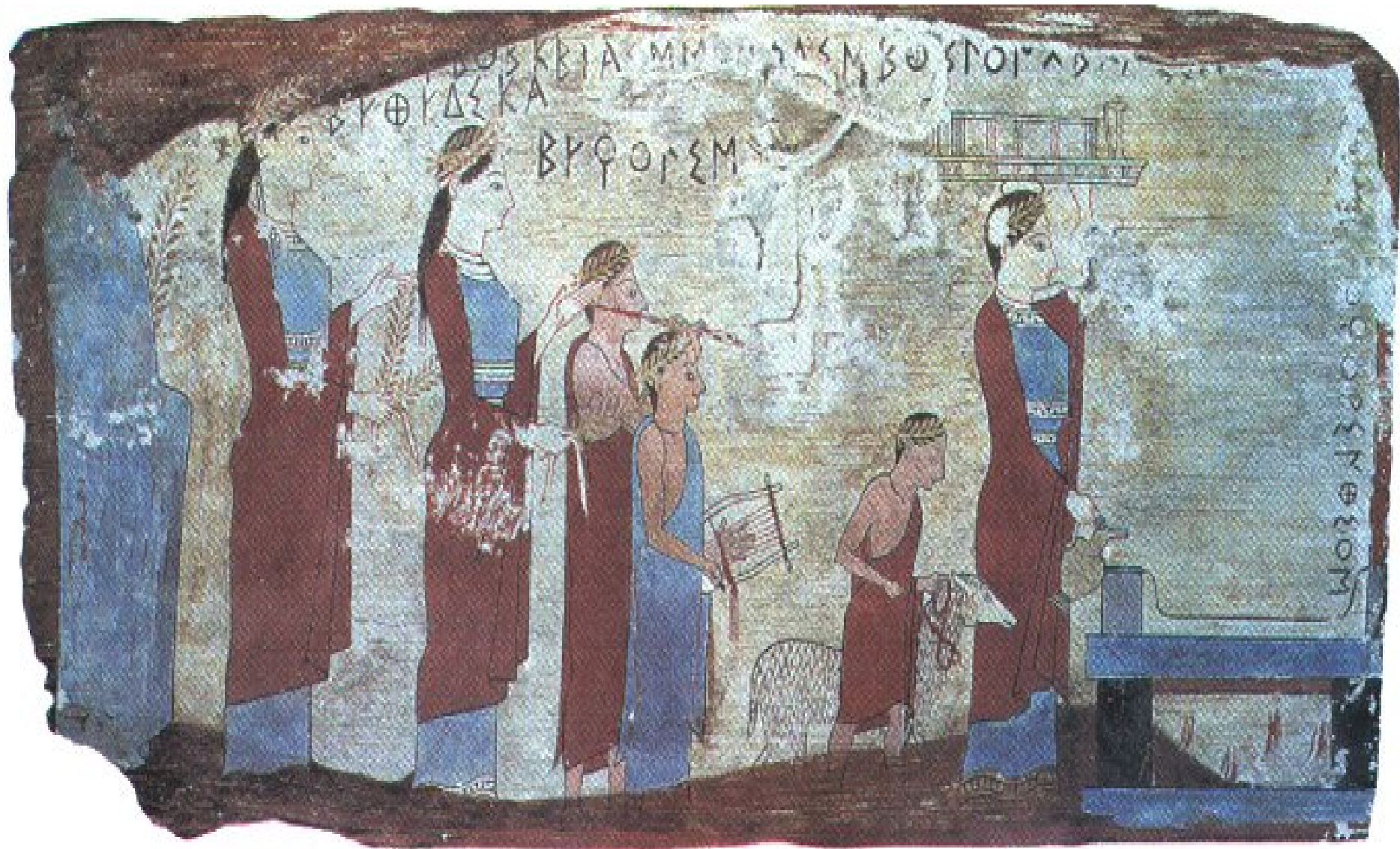
- Money changers at temples, vendors, taxes on sacrifices, cost or economic loss of sacrifices.
- Animal sacrifices, blood and guts, fat of calves, blood of bulls and goats, reeking blood that smoked from holocausts.
- Buying and selling of priesthoods, qualifications of practitioners, lucrative posts, hereditary rights that could be sublet.

# Pagan Practices and Issues 2

- Hierarchies of gods. Many gods and cults—imperial, provincial, city or estate. Mysteries, philosophies, dreams, spells, divinations, magic and chicanery.
- Social wickedness, holy prostitution, effigies of pagan gods, idols.
- Fear of gods leading to persecution of atheists.















# Post Common Era, Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

- Saint Paul and Christianity
- Persecutions
- Mythology in the Middle Ages

# Suetonius









